



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

April 8, 2005

News Release

ICE HOUSTON DEPORTED 686 ILLEGAL ALIENS IN MARCH *493 are criminal aliens and 193 are status violators*

HOUSTON – The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Detention and Removal Operations (DRO) office here today reports that 686 criminal aliens and status violators were deported from the Houston area during the month of March.

Seventy-two percent of those deported last month – 493 – were criminal aliens that had been convicted of crimes including: aggravated sexual assault, drug possession, larceny, robbery, homicide, rape, indecency with a minor, public intoxication, trespassing, forgery and alien smuggling.

Of the criminal aliens deported, 413 were from Mexico, 55 were from Central America, and 25 were from various countries, including: Peru, Lebanon, India, Argentina, Burma, Cameroon, Brazil, Ghana and Pakistan.

The remaining 193 aliens deported were status violators who were illegally present in the United States.

Individual examples of criminal aliens deported last month include Jose Umberto Rodriguez-Saucedo, a Mexican national, who was convicted of: carrying a prohibited weapon, fraud, illegal entry and homicide. Manuel Garcia-Ventura, a Mexican national convicted of robbery, and illegal entry, was also removed. Rodolfo Hernandez-Perez, a Mexican national was deported after being convicted for sexually assaulting a child.

“We must be very clear about our message,” said Charles Arendale, ICE Houston field office director for DRO. “To protect our communities, we concentrate our efforts on arresting and removing criminal aliens. However, anyone who is in the United States illegally may be placed into deportation proceedings if encountered by a variety law enforcement officers.”

Detention and Removal Operations continues to support the Department of Homeland Security by promoting public safety and national security by ensuring the departure from the United States of all removable aliens through fair and effective enforcement of the nation's immigration laws.

Nationally, ICE removed 4,578 criminal aliens and 6,188 status violators in fiscal year 2004.

It is a felony to re-enter the United States after having been formally deported, punishable by up to 20 years in prison.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.